



# NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOLS TO WATCH

## VISITOR'S GUIDE

### South Charlotte Middle School



#### Re-Designation IV in 2015

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<http://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/southcharlotteMS/Pages/Default.aspx>

### 2015 School Statistics

(Sources: 2014 AYP Report)

Community: Suburban Public School  
Enrollment: 850  
Grade Levels: 6-8

#### Student Information

##### Race

- 74.2% White
- 2.5% Native American
- 7.0% Asian
- 10.3% African American
- 6.0% Other

##### Ethnicity

- 8.9 Hispanic

##### Demographics

- 12.8% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 2.6% English Language Learners

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- Academic Enrichment classes meet daily to challenge students who are ready for the next level of instruction and provide additional instruction to struggling students.
- Teachers plan instruction and analyze data in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) which meet a minimum of once per week.
- PLCs use common assessments to analyze student learning and growth across the standards.
- Teachers utilize 1:1 technology to create rigorous and engaging lessons as well as personalized learning.
- Teachers participate in Learning Walks to observe and provide feedback to colleagues while learning new techniques to incorporate into their classroom.

### **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Teachers and administrators meet weekly to identify and discuss all struggling students, and tracks this information through a data dashboard.
- Single gender is offered in Math and Language Arts at all three grade levels, providing students with specially designed instruction to meet the needs of adolescent boys and girls.
- The Kindness Campaign – a positive take on ‘anti-bullying’ efforts – is adopted school wide by all staff members and students.
- Well-developed and award-winning extracurricular activities such as National Academic League, MathCounts, Odyssey of the Mind, Battle of the Books, Science Olympiad, Project Lead the Way, Student Council, National Junior Honor Society and YogArt Teens.
- Intramural sports such as cross country, tennis, and rugby and other athletics offer additional opportunities for students to get involved.

### **Social Equity**

- Inclusive classroom “Communities” are heterogeneously mixed.
- Teachers partner with community members to provide an authentic voice to topics discussed in literature and other content areas.
- Students are celebrated quarterly for their academic achievements and weekly for their moral caliber, work ethic, and kindness.
- Core subjects, fine arts, world languages, and Career and Technical Education classes recognize diverse contributions to one’s culture.

### **Organizational Support**

- Strong and supportive Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).
- Teachers present regularly at district, state, and national conferences and participate in curriculum writing teams.
- Beginning Teacher Support Program (BTSP) meets once a month to discuss and share best teaching practices.

